

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 10, 11, 19, and 20 has been rejoined for examination on the merits.

Claim 10 stands objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kubo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,195,140).

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Fujino (U.S. Patent No. 6,809,785).

Claims 2, 3, 12, and 13¹ stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kubo et al.

Claims 4, 5, 14, 15, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kubo et al. as applied to claims 1 and 12 above, in view of You (U.S. Patent No. 7,023,508).

Claims 8, 9, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kubo et al. in view of Official Notice.

Claims 6 and 16 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 10, 11, 19, and 20 stand allowed.

¹ In the Office Action, it is indicated that claims 2, 3, 12, and 123 are rejected U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kubo et al. As there is no claim 123 and the body of the rejection makes reference to claim 13, it is the understanding of the Applicants that this rejection is referring to claim 13.

Summary of Amendment

The Title of the Invention has been amended to clearly indicate the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claims 1, 12, 10, and 21 have been amended. Claims 6 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-21 are currently pending for consideration.

Title of Invention

Applicants have amended the title of the invention to clearly indicate the invention to which the claims are directed. Therefore, Applicants request that the objection to the Specification be withdrawn.

Claim Objection

Claim 10 was objected to for unclear language. Applicants have amended claim 10 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to claim 10 be withdrawn.

All Claims Allowable

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6 and 16. By the amendment above, the allowable subject matter of claim 6 has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 21. Likewise, the allowable subject matter of claim 16 has been incorporated into claim 12. Claims 10, 11, 19, and 20 stands allowed. Accordingly, Applicants believe all claims are now in condition for allowance. Hence, Applicants request that the §102 and §103 rejections be withdrawn and the application passed to issuance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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